

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3 and 5-24 are allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4 and 25-29 have been canceled. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Claims 2-3 and 5-24 Allowed

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that Claims 2-3 and 5-24 are allowed.

Objection of Claim 25

Claim 25 was objected to for an informality therein. Applicants respectfully note Claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer herein, thereby rendering the objection moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1, 4 and 25-29 Canceled

Claims 1 and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,674,452 to Asanomi in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069717 to Knox et al. (hereinafter "Knox"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, Applicants respectfully note Claims 1, 4 and 25-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asanomi in view of the Knox application (as applied to Claim 1 above), and further in view of Japanese Patent No. 2000002234 to Makihara. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, Applicants respectfully note Claims 1, 4 and 25-29 have been

canceled without prejudice or disclaimer herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claims 2-3 and 5-24, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107355-00080.**

Respectfully submitted,
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